

Date: September 11, 2014

To: Federal Lands Interim Committee  
c/o Legislative Services Office  
Research and Legislation  
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### Comments for Federal Lands Interim Committee, Kamiah Hearing

As 3rd generation residents of North Central Idaho now in our 70's, with keen interest and concern for the future wellbeing of the environment and economy of this state and nation, we offer the following written testimony in the matter of demanding that the U.S. Government turn over all federal lands.

If the committee's task, as stated by the co-chair, is to educate itself and others in this matter, they will find ample facts, verifiable statistics, laws, etc. to support Public Lands remaining Public Land. They are integral to the socio-economic and environmental wellbeing of Idahoans and all Americans who own these priceless treasures now and for the enjoyment/education of future generations.

Unfortunately, the committee finds itself in a position of expending much time, energy and money on this issue which we believe is driven by some committee members' ideological rhetoric, partisan politics and corporate pressures to solve perceived problems with short-sighted "fixes" that would destroy Idaho's special quality of life, based in large part, on the attraction of diverse Public Lands. Public Lands lost are lost forever and the ultimate privatization of federal lands are not in the public interest. It will lead to boom and bust economies that benefit a few with gross exploitation of resources with few laws to protect the environment or the wellbeing of the citizens. The benefits of this move started with faulty math, little science and no legal credibility, on the "back of a napkin." It doesn't stand the common sense test. (Currently, for every dollar sent to the federal government, Idaho gets back \$1.21 to \$1.28 - We don't consider this welfare, but a cost shared that benefits many in the use of our federal lands.) Tourism, recreation, hunting, fishing, etc. have returned more to the economy of Idaho than logging has in its long history.

Time and time again, studies show that Idahoans value Public Land as a great asset to "quality of life." We are two of those Idahoans.

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